THE GUILFORD 99'ER NEWSLETTER

VOL.1 NO.5 JUNE

Ken Bailey, President
Bob Carmany, V. Pres.
Carl Foster, Sec/Treas.

Edwin Simpson, Newsletter Ed.
George Von Seth, Program Lib.
VACANT, Education

OUR NEXT MEETING

DATE: June 5, 1984
TIME: 7:00 PM
PLACE: Zayre's Department Store
1421 E. Cone Blvd.
Electronics Dept.
PROGRAM: This month, we will have a guest speaker from COMPUTE MAGAZINE.

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One of our members, James Rountree, reports that he may be selling all or part of his system which includes the following:

PEB, disk drive, controller and disk manager, 32K memory expansion, RS232 card, TI modem, speech synthesizer and GE Terminal Printer.

Software--- Extended Basic, TE II, Parsec, Tombstone City, Personal Record Keeping, Star Trek, Video Chess, and the Adventure Command module with Tunnels oof Doom.

James would prefer to sell it all as one unit but he is willing to listen to offers on individual items. Contact him if you are interested.

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The club library is open on a limited basis. Some titles are available for checkout. Contact George Von Seth for further information. Anyone who has a non-copyrighted program to submit for the library can also contact George.

COMPUTER CLASSES

We anticipate that our computer classes will be starting late this month or early next month. In order to make plans for facilities, etc. we need to have some idea of how many of our members plan to attend. Please contact one of our officers at the next meeting and give them the information about any of your family members who would like to attend one of our classes. A curriculum will be forthcoming shortly.

Incidently, we still need someone to chair the Education Committee!

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ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLE
FUTURA SOFTWARE
P.O. BOX 5581
FORT WORTH, TEXAS 76108

SYSTE REQ--- 2 disk drives, Extended Basic, 32K, and printer

Accounts Receivable keeps a record of up to 350 customer accounts by account number, or account name. The information is retrieved in order of the age of the account. No provisions have been made for alphabetizing the records which may preclude the program being used in some situations. Accounts Receivable can be fully integrated with Futura's Inventory Management Program (Accounts Payable, General Ledger, and others are available). The program clearly has no home use and is not comprehensive enough for a medium or large business. But for a small business, Futura can turn the 99/4A into valuable tool and show off its capabilities.

Here is a programming tip from Mac McAdoo.

For those of you who are programming enthusiasts, here is a way to improve the appearance of your programs with the text printed at any position on the CRT screen without the benefit of Extended Basic. The subprogram below uses a FOR-NEXT loop (line 5000) to read each character in each text string (TXT$ in line 5010) and converts it to the ASCII value. Line 5020 then displays that value (SC) by using a graphic command (CALL HCHAR).

To enter the program, type in NUM 100 and press ENTER to begin the automatic line numbering sequence.

```
100 CALL CLEAR
110 ROW=1
120 COL=1
130 TXT$="THIS IS THE FIRST LINE"
140 GOSUB 5000
150 TXT$="DO NOT USE MORE THAN 30"
160 ROW=ROW+2
170 GOSUB 5000
180 TXT$="LETTERS AND SPACES BETWEEN"
190 ROW=ROW+2
200 GOSUB 5000
210 TXT$="QUOTE MARKS"
220 ROW=ROW+2
230 GOSUB 5000
240 END
```

Now press ENTER twice to exit from the auto-number mode. Type in NUM 5000 and press ENTER to begin again.

```
5000 FOR I=1 TO LEN(TXT$)
5010 SC=ASC(SEG$(TXT$,I,1))
5020 CALL HCHAR(ROW,COL+I,SC)
5030 NEXT I
5040 RETURN
```

If you want to prinnt numerical variables, try this example.

```
600 SCORE=150
610 SCORE=SCORE-1
620 TXT$=STR$(SCORE)
630 ROW=20
640 COL=10
650 IF SCORE=0 THEN 240
```

Change line 5040 GOTO 610.

Add line 5015 CALL HCHAR (ROW,COL+LEN(TXT$)+1,32)

Clear the screen with CALL CLEAR and enter RUN 610.

Line 610 takes the last SCORE and subtracts 1. Line 620 then converts it to a string value and it is then treated as text in the subprogram beginning at line 5000. Line 5015 erases the last digit when the value decreases.

****

MORE ON ROUNDING NUMBERS

Last month's newsletter had an article on rounding numbers to 2 decimal places. Here is an easier method to do it:

```
100 X=5.6583
110 DEF ROU(X)=INT(((10^2)*X)+0.5)
/(10^2)
120 PRINT X,ROU(X)
```

The formula in line 110 rounds the number to 2 decimal places, but you can round it to any number of places you wish. To round to 3 places, change each 2 in line 110 to 3.

****

The latest issue of HCM (Vol. 4 No. 2) has some tech notes entitled "Doing Without Extended Basic". It has an alternative method to replace the DISPLAY AT command, PI, RPT$, MAX and MIN. You can get the same effect but you can run them in Basic. Bob Carmany will have a copy at the next meeting if you want to look it over.

We hope that the article is the beginning of a series similar to the T.I. Writer Tutorial they ran some months ago.

Any of you avid programming fanatics that have some tips to share can send them to P.O. Box 21691, Greensboro, N.C. 27420

FREE PROGRAM

Last month, we printed a program from Vaughn Software. Here is another one that may be of interest--- you might be able to design an auto-dial telephone program around it. Other than that, it really does not do anything.

```
100 REM ********************
110 REM *****TELETUNES******
120 REM *BY VAUGHN SOFTWARE*
130 REM ********************
140 REM
150 REM
160 REM
170 CALL CLEAR
180 DIM  TN$(9)
190 DATA 940.01331.7,699.11215.9,
699.11331.7,699.11471.9,766.21215.9,
766.21331.7,766.21471.9
200 DATA 847.41215.9,847.41331.7,
847.41471.9
210 FOR A=0 TO 9
220 READ TN$(A)
230 NEXT A
240 INPUT "PHONE NUMBER?:":PH$
250 FOR A=1 TO LEN(PH$)
260 C=VAL(SEG$(PH$,A,1))
270 CALL SOUND(50,VAL(SEG$(TN$$(C),
1,5)),0,VAL(SEG$(TN$(C),6,6)),0)
280 NEXT A
290 GOTO 240
```

Next month, we will try to print the double program "Linker" which retrieves data from a program no longer in memory.

PROGRAMMING TIP

Any good programmer will find the need to put a pause or delay in his programs. Here are two easy ways to do it:

METHOD I

```
100 FOR I=1 TO 5000
110 NEXT I
```

This is a delay using a FOR-NEXT loop. The computer will execute the loop 5000 times which will give you a rather long delay. To modify the delay, either shorten or lengthen the value in line 100(5000).

METHOD II

```
100 INPUT "PRESS ENTER TO
CONTINUE":KEY$
```

This method uses an INPUT prompt to halt the program. The program will pause waiting for you to press ENTER and then go on to the next line.You could modify the delay by adding an IF-THEN-ELSE statement which will cause the program to branch to where you want it to go.

There are numerous other ways to cause a program to pause, but these are two of the easiest.

One of the major purposes of a users' group is to combine the knowledge and skill of the individual members for the benefit of the entire group. One way our group has been doing this is by passing around catalogues, newsletters, and other materials at our meetings. Some of these items were sent to the club and others are the property of individual members. If you are interested in a particular item common courtesy dictates that you ask to borrow it. Chances are, the club can either sign it out to you or get you a copy of your own. However, if these items just disappear from our meetings, we may be reluctant to pass them out at future meetings. This would defeat the purpose of the group. It is hoped that the actions of a few individuals will not jeopardize this source of information for the rest of the group.

THE SOFTWARE SHOPPER

This month we are going to discuss Adventure Games.

There are basically two types of adventure games ---text and graphics. The text Adventure games are similar to the the books on sale today. The story branches to different segments based on the choice a player makes in a given situation.

The graphics variety may be either all graphic situations or a combination of graphics and text. The player is led through the game by the choices he makes.

The T.I.-produced Scott Adams series requires a command module. The specific module is different for disk and cassette. There are several individual adventure titles available from T.I. and mail-order sources.

There are other Adventure games available that do not require anything except a cassette recorder.

American Software and Pegasus Software both produce a long series of games. All of these are available from TENEX (we have TENEX catalogues available on a check-out basis from the library).

You should realize that these games can take up to several months to complete depending on the complexity of the game and skill of the player.

Incidently, the October issue of HCM has a "do-it-yourself" adventure and instructions in the article to create more games of the text variety.

So, either "do-it-yourself" or buy the one of your choice and watch out for the dragons, elves, and other creatures.

With the rapid expansion of the software world, there are new titles produced faster than they can be reviewed. Next month, we will start a series on our own library!!

THE HARDWARE SHOPPER

This column will deal with the RS232 interface in its many forms and configurations.

An RS232 is an interface used between your computer console and the appropriate printer or modem. They come in two basic forms---stand-alone and cards for the PEB.

An RS232 may have a serial port, a parallel port, or both. You must have the same type of port on your interface as on your peripheral (ie. serial to serial or parallel to parallel).

All printers (except the Alphacom) must have an interface to work. All modemms must be attached to an RS232 interface.

The stand-alones plug into the expansion port on the right side of your console and the card slips into a slot in the PEB.

Here is a listing of what is available on the current market:

Corcomp Inc.
23461 Ridge Route Dr.
Suite H
Laguna Hills, CA 92653

This is a card with both serial and parallel ports.

Mikel Laboratories
17360 Gramercy Place
Gardena, CA 90247

Serial only and serial and parallel stand-alone.

MULTICOM/Intellitec
P.O. Box 1693
Sandy, Utah 84091

Both card and stand-alone with both ports.

Doryt Systems
14 Glen St.
Glen Cove, N.Y.

Only parallel port on this stand-alone (see last month's newsletter for a review).

Remember, electrical line surges can be deadly to your computer and peripherals. They cause loss of memory and permanent damage. Invest in a power strip with a surge control circuit. It will save programs and equipment from the power "glitches".

WHAT DO I NEED TO ADD A PRINTER TO MY SYSTEM?

First of all, take a look at "The Hardware Shopper" column in this newsletter. With the exception of the Alphacom series (the 40 column Model 42 and 80 column Model 81), all printers need an interface between the console and the printer. Printers are either parallel or serial interface. RS232 is the industry standard for serial interfaces. The T.I. produced card for the PEB has both parallel and serial ports but the pin connections are non-standard. You must connect a parallel printer to the parallel port and a serial printer to the 25-pin serial port. Corcomp and others make interfaces. You will then need the appropriate cable (either flat or preferably shielded pair) to connect the interface port to the printer. Cables are available at most computer stores.

The Alphacom series are parallel, thermal, direct connection printers. The "smart" cable is available locally at Brendles. All you need is the Alphacom and the cable.

HOW DO I GET MY SPEECH SYNTHESIZER TO SAY THE PHRASES IN THE MANUAL?

When you try to get your computer to say "TEXAS INSTRUMENTS", for example, and all it does is spell the words out you have just followed the erroneous instructions in the Extended Basic manual. T.I. neglected to give the correct method for accessing phrases when using CALL SAY. First, make sure that the phrase is in the resident vocabulary (unless you are using text-to-speech on the TE II module). Type in your command in this form:

```
CALL SAY("#TEXAS INSTRUMENTS#")
```

The pound sign "#" is used to set off the phrase. This little gem was left out of the Extended Basic manual.

The Terminal Emulator II module not only gives you telecommunications capability but also unlimited text-to-speech. Just follow the instructions in the booklet that came with it. With it speech is treated as a file:

```
100 OPEN #1:"SPEECH",OUTPUT
110 PRINT #1:"TEXAS INSTRUMENTS"
```

We hope this solves any problems you may have with your speech synthesizer and its vocabulary.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

309 Guilford Road
Jamestown, North Carolina 27282
April 20, 1984

THE GUILFORD 99'ER USER'S GROUP
P.O. Box 21691
Greensboro, NC 27420

Attention: Carl Foster

Dear Mr. Foster:

Enclosed is my check for $6.00 to cover the cost of the dues for me and my family. I feel that it is money well spent. The newsletter alone is worth a great deal to owners of TI-99/4A computers.

I and my son are looking forward to attending your next meeting on May 1st. It sounds as if you have a fine program planned.

Thank you for sending me the newsletter. Otherwise, I would have never known of the group.

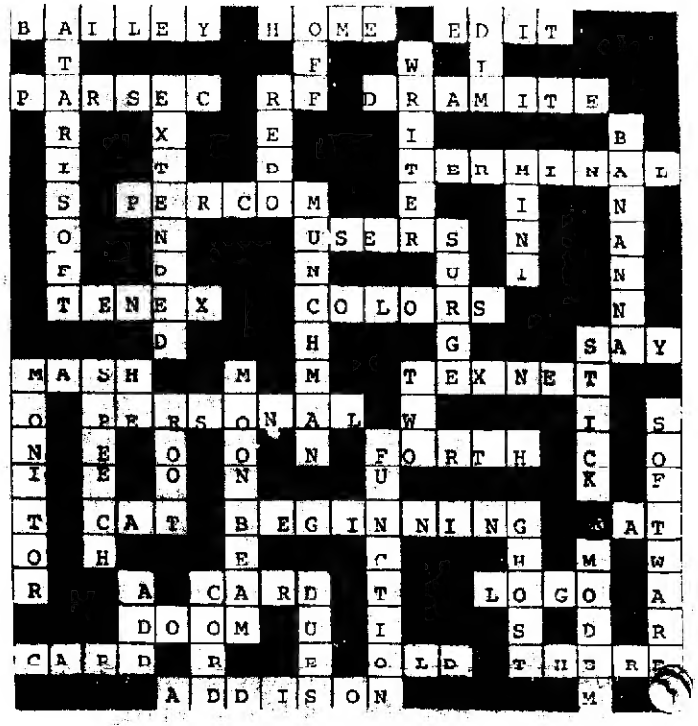
Yours Truly,

Roland W. Stiles

ENTERTAINMENT

The puzzle this month is a "word find". The words may be spelled vertically, horizontally, diagonally, and either forwards or backwards. There are twenty words in all and the list follows the puzzle. Good luck!!

```
**************************
*SUBPROGRAMSKERYTHJBD*
*UREGHFUNCTIONQNDOEIC*
*HESHEITSNTJDNTJVQSET*
*SDGPERAWDRAHKCSTKKBE*
*FIGLUEESVBMESTFEEINT*
*STCUSLSERUHFIMTRKEPG*
*BNLAOFENXRICATBOMURO*
*LUGSPRITEPKUEWNRPFIG*
*BONHCVGJKDEQIOPSAKND*
*QOEUMNCVPROGRAMIOMTE*
*CASSETTEGPLMEBOJSDEL*
*OCBFNXWAPAPSOFHLPERI*
*FORETYZPRUNMCDPCVKKS*
*BMJREVTELSRBDIEHMGFC*
*OPVCROHPMSOJQZHMOEKL*
*UUTREPSOFGMNBCOPRIOM*
*ETULIBWEPSANCGEIAPVJ*
*BECRGANSOFTWAREACRIF*
*TREXCGKIEPFBNAMQOEGL*
*UPNERSINTERFACENSEPK*
**************************
```



Here is a list o the words used in the puzzle: CASSETTE, JOYSTICK, COMPUTER, CONSOLE, PERIPHERAL, HARDWARE, SOFTWARE, GRAPHICS, PRINTER, MODEM, DISKETTE, ENTER, SPRITE, FUNCTION, RAM, PROGRAM, SUBPROGRAM, EDIT, ROM, and INTERFACE.

I hope that you were able to find them all.

Last month, there was an error in one of the clues given for the puzzle.Number 40 ACROSS should read "Tunnels Of _____" instead of the way it was printed. The solution is printed above.

GUILFORD 99'ER GAME MASTERS

Get out your joysticks, pull up a comfortable chair, and see if you can beat any of these scores:

James Rountree STARTREK 1,471,975 and PARSEC 86,800
Sandy Carmany BURGERTYME 838,050
Andrew Stinson DIG-DUG 318,530 and CHISHOLM TRAIL 18,300

These, and any other game played on the T.I. are eligible. Send your name, score, the signiture of an adult witness or a photo of the screen to P.O. Box 21691, Greensboro, N.C. 27420. Group members and their families are eligible.

PUBLICATIONS AND PRODUCTS

Last month we included information on HOME COMPUTER MAGAZINE and THE SMART PROGRAMMER from MILLER'S GRAPHICS. The following publications may also be of interest to our readers:

COMPUTE MAGAZINE is published monthly right here in Greensboro. It includes articles and programs for the T.I. each month. Some very good information about the T.I. can also be found in the Reader's Feedback Column. It is available at most local newstands.

ENTHUSIAST 99 MAGAZINE is devoted entirely to the T.I. and is published bi-monthly. It is an excellent magazine that includes product reviews, new product information, and programming tips. It is available to members from the International 99/4A User's Group, P.O. Box 67, Bethany, OK., 73008.

THE COMPUTER SHOPPER is a newspaper-like tabloid published monthly. It has a large number of ads and classified ads, with a special section for the T.I. It gives User's Group and bulletin board information. THE COMPUTER SHOPPER,P.O. Box F, 407 S. Washington Ave, Titusville, Fla. 32796. Available at some local newstands.

Other publications, such as COMPUTERS AND ELECTRONICS and BYTE MAGAZINE, include something about the T.I. but are generally geared toward other computers. Books about the T.I. are too numerous to mention here. We may have reviews on some of them in future issues.

The market continues to be flooded with new 3rd party products for the T.I. Remember that some of the products are very good and will be around for a long time. Others are not of good quality and will not last. Among those most recently released are:

From INTERCOMPUTER, "The Control Box". This box contains four standard electrical outlets into which you can plug various appliances. The outlets can be programmed by your computer so that it will run the appliances. INTERCOMPUTER, Inc., 358 Chestnut Hill Ave, Boston, Mass. 02146

"Grombuster" from NAVARONE Industries, allows your T.I. Version 2.2 to run the modules by Atarisoft, Romox, and others that you have been unable to run.

UNISOURCE is advertising a command module programmer and blank E-Prom modules that will allow you to put your programs on command modules.

"The Band", by TEXAS PERIPHERALS, Inc. is a music synthesizer peripheral card that requires disk drive, 32K memory, and Editor Assembler.

Some of the games that have long been popular in arcades are also becoming available. TIGERVISION has introduced Miner 2049'er on command module and PARKER BROTHERS is producing Q*Bert, Popeye, and Frogger in command module format.

These are just a few of the new products available. As more information about these and others comes in from our members and other sources, we will keep you informed. You can help us by either making your new acquisitions available to be reviewed or by doing a review on them yourself.

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Remember, submissions to the newsletter are welcome. They must be in by the 15th of the month to make the following month's newsletter. Send submissions to: P.O. Box 21691, Greensboro, N.C. 27420

We still need your continued support and help in getting out our monthly newsletter. We need submissions of materials--- programming tips, questions about hardware and software, original short program, game scores, and anything else you care to submit. All submissions must be in by the 15th of the month to make the editorial deadline for the next month's issue. Send your submissions to P.O. Box 21691 Greensboro, N.C. 27420

Next month, we will start a series on programming music on the T.I. Carl Foster will author the column and I think that we are all in for a treat once the column starts. Carl does some amazing things things with his computer! If you like music it will be well worth while to read Carl's column.

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